

Wandering

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THE

Wandering Lady,

Or, the *Kentish* PILGRIM:

Being a very Strange and Wonderful RELATION of a certain Beautiful Gentlewoman, about 26 Years of Age, lately discover'd near *Canterbury* in *Kent*, disguised like a Nun, in strange Apparel; who Cures all manner of Diseases, either in Men, Women or Children, with only a Touch of her Hand, to the Amazement of all People, without taking One Farthing for her Pains; having Two Maids to wait on her, and Plenty of Gold and Silver about her; as also a Gold Medal about her Neck, with the *Virgin Mary's* Effigy richly engraven thereon, but will give no account of her Birth, or whence she came.



LONDON: Printed for J. Brown near *Fleetstreet*, 1709.



THE Wandering L A D Y, &c.

WE have repeated Letters from Canterbury and other Parts of Kent, from several Persons of Quality, and others of unquestionable Reputation, with one of the strangest Relations that ever was heard of in the Memory of Man; the Particulars whereof are as followeth.

About the beginning of *May* last, a certain Beautiful Young Gentlewoman, in strange but rich Attire, having two Maids to attend her, was observ'd to wander about the Country, within three Miles of *Canterbury*; she appear'd at first in Mens Apparel from the Shoulders downwards, having a thin pair of Boots on, and all other Accoutrements that seem'd to render her of the Masculine Gender, except a kind of a white Veil over her Head, which in some measure resembles that of a Nun. Her Maids, who are very Beautiful Young Women, are dress'd in very fine bright Hair Colour'd Velvet, being as observing and obedient to her, as if she were the greatest Queen or Empress upon Earth, to whom she communicates all her Business, whether it relates to Publick or Private Affairs. She is mean in Stature, and of a very clear and shining Complexion; extraordinary Beautiful, even to such a degree, that it astonishes all Persons, having a Curious Black Eye and Eye-brows, her Face round and lively, intermixt with a pure White and Red, having dimples in her Cheeks and Chin, her Lips like

the finest Coral ; her Countenance very Amiable Smiling and Pleasant ; her Conversation Wonderful Grave, Witty, Graceful and Delightful being the most exact Perfection both of Wit and Beauty. Her Words few, but those she makes use of enough to Charm the greatest Tyrant being the Wonder of the World for Wisdom Beauty, Good Nature, Charity, Piety and Humility ; but above all for the Working of Miracles, to the admiration of all People, which shall be spoken of in another Place.

In the mean time I cannot omit to inform my Readers how by her sudden appearance near the Sea-Coast, in the uncommon Equipage above mention'd, and by her Pretence of Curing the King's Evil. She was at first suspected to be the Pretended Prince of *Wales*, and the rather because she made good her Words by restoring many to their perfect Health who had that Distemper by no other visible means than the touch of her Hand ; infomuch, that the Magistrates of *Canterbury* hearing of her Fame, caus'd her to be Apprehended and brought before them at the Town-Hall on *Saturday* the 14th of *May* at which time above 40 Persons who had been Cur'd of all manner of Diseases, viz. the Blind, Lame, Deaf, and Dumb, likewise Cripples of all Sorts, who had gone on Crutches for many Years together, appear'd on her behalf ; some of whom made Affidavit before the Justice, that they had been Lame and Blind from their Cradles till this

Wandering Lady, pitying their deplorable Conditions restor'd them to their perfect Sight and Limbs in a Moments time, only by touching the Parts grieved with her Hand, particularly one *Mary Read* of *Kensington*; who from her Cradle crawl'd on all Four, not being able to lift up her Head for 30 Years last past, but crept about on her Hands and Knees from Door to Door a Begging for her Livelihood; who by a wonderful Providence was accidentally brought to this Wandering Lady, at which time looking stedfastly upon her, she ask'd her whether she thought God was not able to make her the Instrument of her Recovery, to which the poor Wretch (then on her Knees) reply'd, That she was sure nothing was impossible to the Almighty and tho' a great Sinner, yet she did not Question but God would be merciful to her, *through the Merits of Jesus Christ the Righteous*: Upon which taking an Herb from the Ground, as if at a venture without making choice of any, and holding it with the same Hand she gather'd it, lifting up her Eyes to Heaven, she laid the said Herb on the poor Womans Neck, saying, *God heal thee*; whereupon she that went double but half a Minute before, was now restor'd to the use of her Limbs, in as perfect a manner as the straightest Body living upon the Face of the Earth; for which the said *Mary Read* gave God the Glory, in the view of several Persons of Good Reputation, and this they affirm'd in a solemn manner before

before the Justices, to the wonder and admiration of all then present.

Upon which the said Magistrates, still fearing that she might be a Spy, caused her to be search'd from Top to Toe, lest under that unaccountable disguise, might be conceal'd some Letters and Papers of Dangerous Consequence; which was done accordingly with her free consent, but nothing being found, some then present had the Curiosity to see whether she was a Man or a Woman, who proving her to be of the weaker Sex, it was demanded of her whence she came? where she was Born? and how she came by this great Gift of Curing Diseases in such an extraordinary manner? As to the first Question, she answer'd she lately came from France, where she was call'd to do Good, and now was come (as she suppos'd) into her Native Country (for said she) I was brought up by an old Rich Gentlewoman of Kent, who said that she found me lying in Swadling Cloaths, in a Haycock, when I was but about Three Weeks old; who, as I grew up taught me the Latin, Greek, French and Italian Languages, which I attain'd to with great ease, delight and satisfaction. As also the True Principles of the Christian Religion, which, by the Blessing of God, were improv'd to his Glory and my Comfort: But all which time I was kept up in a kind of a Cloyster from all worldly Conversation. As for the exact Place of her Nativity, she desired to be excus'd, because her Nurse, or rather Tutoress, did never inform her. But as to the third

and last Question, How she came by the Gift of Curing Diseases, she answer'd them thus: Every good and perfect Gift cometh from the Lord, and thereupon desir'd them to rest satisfied, without giving her any further trouble, or obstructing her in the Good Works of Charity and Christianity.

Upon which the Magistrates aforesaid, finding by sufficient demonstration that all the Cures that she perform'd was done without Trick or Deceit, they forthwith order'd her a free Pass or License to go from Place to Place, where she pleas'd, unmolested. It was observ'd when she was search'd she had a Chain of Gold about her Neck, with a Rich Medal thereunto affixed, whereon was curiously engraven the True Effigy of the Virgin Mary having our Blessed Saviour in her Arms, supposed to be near Ten Pound value; her Cloaths being of the finest White Velvet, and her Linnen beyond comparison. In short, her Self and Servants, both in Conversation, Ingenuity, and other Qualifications, seem to surpass all manner of Human Excellencies.

This Female Pilgrim is at present at Brick-Hill-House, within three Miles of Canterbury, curing all manner of Diseases, tho' of never so long standing, or greatest difficulty; and 'tis said she is now preparing to come to Feversham, and from thence to London; where her Presence will be very acceptable to the Cripples of that City, who are so far destitute of Money to recover their Limbs,

Limbs, that they can hardly get any to buy Crutches.

P. S. Just now we have an Account That the above-mention'd Pilgrim is come to *Faversham*, and with her some Hundreds of People, who follow her from all Parts of the Country, wondering at the extraordinary Cures, or rather Miracles, which she daily performs, because she takes no Money for it; but on the contrary gives very liberally to all Poor People, (after she has restor'd them to their Healths) according to their several Necessities, or distance from their Respective Habitations, in order to defray their Charges in their Journey.

Note, The Truth of the abovesaid Relation will be attested by the *Canterbury Stage-Coachmen*, who Inn at the *Star* on *Fish-Street-Hill*, *Cross-Keys* and *Spread-Eagle* in *Grace-Church-Street*, on *Mondays*, *Wednesdays* and *Fridays*, or at the *Dark-House* at *Billingsgate*, by the *Canterbury Carriers* almost every Day in the Week.

F I N I S.



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